



The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership



Annual Report 2012

The ASAP Steering Committee 2012

- S.P. Choong (Chairperson)
Malaysia
- Indira Basnett,
Nepal
- Khalid Qureshi
Pakistan
- Milind Shah
India
- Ninuk Widyanoro
Indonesia
- Phan Bich Thuy
Vietnam

From The Desk Of The Coordinator:

The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership is delighted to celebrate the 5th year of its network! We are grateful to all our members in numerous countries across Asia—South, South East and Middle East, for their consistent support and encouragement and involvement. As a membership platform and an advocacy forum, we draw strength and motivation and a fulfillment of the vision and mission through this engagement.

We are also extremely fortunate in having had the opportunity to work with an incredibly supportive Steering Committee. They have provided guidance and leadership in all the ASAP programmes in country, as well as ongoing and substantive contributions to the regional work and the strategy and direction.

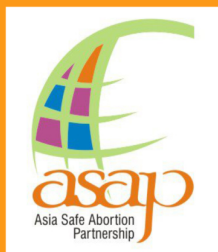
Our donors, partners and collaborators have deepened our belief in our work and energized us with their dynamic and invigorating contributions to all that we do.

As we look at the future, we see a world that has a greater need than ever before for a network like ours. Those of us who believe in a woman's right to choose her fertility goals and to be able to act on them in a safe manner--we need to be more visible, more vocal, stronger and forceful to not just hold the line but also to move it forward.

We look forward to our partnership with you and we hope you will join us in this long and challenging journey!

Suchitra Dalvie
ASAP Coordinator

Who Are We?



Asia has the world's largest population, and the highest number of unsafe abortions – about 9.2 million each year.

History:

The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership was formed in March 2008 and is a regional affiliate of the International Consortium for Medical Abortion (ICMA).

ASAP serves as a strategic think-tank in Asia, and conducts activities to promote women's rights to safe abortion.

Goal:

To promote, protect and advance women's sexual and reproductive rights, by reducing unsafe abortions and its complications; and by promoting access to comprehensive safe abortion services in the Asia region.

- To support members through capacity building; law, advocacy and policy; research and documentation; and service delivery.
- To promote new technologies including medical abortions, and manual vacuum aspirations.



Objectives:

- To serve as a forum for information and strategic thinking and planning for a collective vision aimed towards international and national advocacy.

ASAP is one of the co-founders of the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion.

In 2011, ASAP collaborated with Women on Web to support its partners in Pakistan to launch the first ever hotline for misoprostol information in Asia. The model has now been replicated in Indonesia and Thailand.

Current Challenges:

- Religious fundamentalism and political conservatism prevent liberalization of laws.
- Women's rights and human rights not ensured.
- Funding constraints compared to anti-choice groups.
- Inadequate government accountability towards international covenants.

Overview Of Achievements



The Centre for Reproductive Rights **invited ASAP as resource group** at the SARJAI workshop from 16th-18th July 2012 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

This workshop was arranged with selected lawyers from South Asia to build their capacity to litigate for issues related to women's health, specifically on safe abortion and contraception.

Visibility and Networking in 2012

ASAP Staff and/or its Members were present at

- The DAWN meeting for ICPD beyond 20
- The UNCPD at New York
- The ICMA and Women on Web meeting for the hotlines in Asia and Latin America
- MDG: Status, Challenges and Future Directions (NIRRRH, ICMR in collaboration with UNDP/UNFPA/WHO)
- The "Beyond ICPD & the MDGs meeting held by ARROW in Kuala Lumpur.

WHO SEARO Meeting To Discuss **revised Safe Abortion guidance**

Dr. Choong, Chair ASAP and Suchitra Dalvie were among the resource persons at the meeting in Katmandu.

"What does it mean to be pro choice?"

ASAP Coordinator Suchitra Dalvie spoke at this meeting organized by Catholics for Choice and BPAS, in London.

ASAP Updates Its Website



ASAP has had a website since its inception in 2008. Last year, we gave it a new look.
(www.asap_asia.org)

The current website has the following features:

1. Profiles Of All Member Countries
2. Information On Medical Abortion
3. Buttons giving information on the Hotline telephone numbers
4. Links To The International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion.
5. Links to ASAP's social media sites
6. Information that can be translated into 11 languages.

The website can also be accessed on smart phones!

ASAP also has a new listserve with 198 members and a weekly newsletter.

<https://twitter.com/asapasia>



<http://asap-asia.org/blog/>



<http://www.facebook.com/AsiaSafeAbortionPartnership>



Milestones in 6 months:

- 211 Likes on Facebook
- 369 Followers on Twitter
- Over 115 posts and 5500 visitors on the ASAP Blog

Since November 2012, ASAP also provides **social media mentoring** to its youth advocates and amplifies the online voices demanding access to safe abortion.

+ ASAP Is On The Social Network

Facebook, Twitter and Blog Launched on May 28, 2012

Introduction:

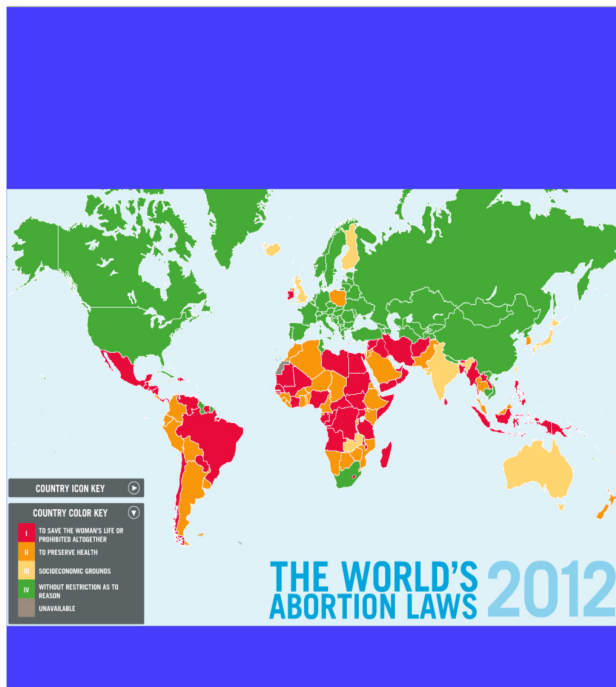
As of 2011, 35% of the world's total population uses the Internet. 45% of these Internet users reside in Asia

With this in mind, ASAP included a Communications Officer in its team. We launched social media pages on **Facebook** and **Twitter**, and set-up a **blog** on May 28, 2012.

Goals and Objectives:

- Share accurate information about abortion and promote access to safe abortion.
- Advocate for women's right to safe abortion across the Asia Pacific and the Middle East
- Provide thought leadership for the online prochoice movement in Asia.
- To network widely with likeminded organizations and independent activists.

70% of our audience is between 18-34 years of age.



Outstanding Comments On Facebook



In response to a post featuring the 2012 Map of the World's Abortion Laws, Lilly Miao from The Netherlands says:

I think this map misses to represent the discrepancy existing between the legal rights to have an abortion and the concrete access to abortion services... It would be nice to create another layer/color to represent this issue on the map.

Our Impact On Social Media

To observe the 10th Anniversary of the Decriminalization Of Abortion In Nepal, ASAP produced a 3-part video series!

It is on our YouTube Channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/ASAPasia>



Highlights Of The ASAP Blog

The ASAP Blog highlights access to safe abortion and provides thought-leadership in Asia through

- News Analysis
- Articles on the Law
- Interviews With SRHR Experts
- Guest posts
- Testimonials from women's rights activists.

Testimonial From The Blog:

"I support safe abortion because in Vietnam where I work, although almost women receive safe abortion service, the minority still suffers from complications of unsafe abortion, which contribute 11.5% of maternal mortality in our country. Young unmarried women are most vulnerable victims of unsafe abortions, because the stigma associated with pre-married pregnancies and abortion, makes it hard for them to seek safe abortion services."

*ASAP Steering Committee Member,
Dr. Phan Bich Thuy*

ASAP spearheaded a
Global Tweetathon
on September 28,
The International Day of
Action For the
Decriminalization of Abortion.



ASAP's Tweetathon for September 28!

What did our fellow-tweeters say?

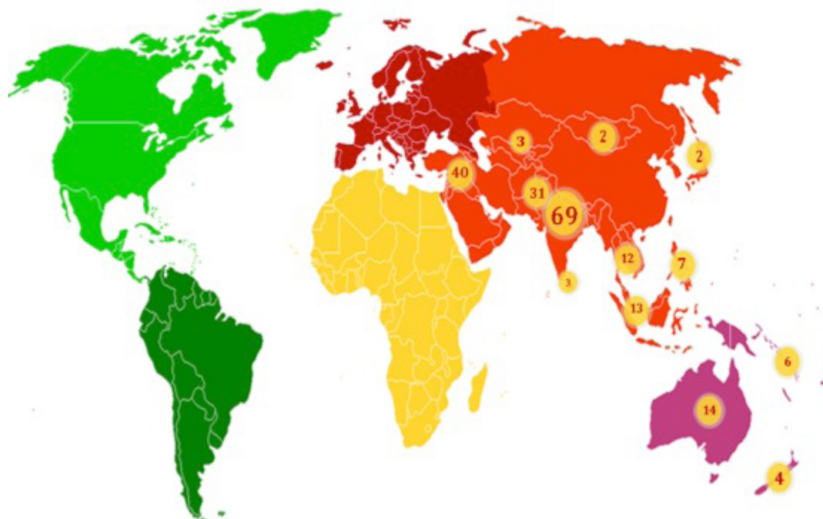
@sandracharlotta:
Decriminalization: The
best way to prevent unsafe
abortion and the 47,000
deaths they cause every
year.

@Tarshingo: legality no guarantee for accessibility & often providers put women off by scaring them of consequences.

@IpasYouth: when a country forces a woman to carry her pregnancy to term, it is violating her most basic rights.

@halexilio:
Because women don't get pregnant
by themselves, we encourage men to
raise voices for #safeabortion
#abortionrts

@alrantweets: No-one anywhere should risk death or imprisonment because they can't access safe legal abortion.

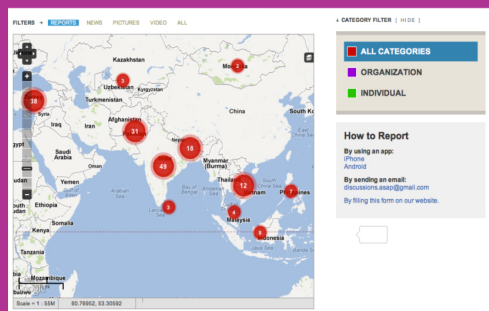


In 2012
206 organizations and
individuals
endorsed
the International Campaign For
Women's Right To Safe
Abortion
from the Asia-Pacific and the
Middle East.



ASAP has created an **interactive crowdsourcing map** to plot the endorsements from our region!

Access the Interactive Map Here:
<https://campaignendorsements.crowdmap.com>





Sharing Experiences...

"I think it was very inspiring to see how confident the midwives and nurses in Nepal are. We can also do the same thing in Bangladesh if we are allowed to do it"

- Sufia Khatoun,
Bangladesh

Capacity Building:

Midlevel Providers Exchange Study Tour

Katmandu, 25th to 30th August 2012

ASAP aims to promote task shifting in order to improve access to safe abortion services.

Nepal is a leader in task shifting since 2002, when abortion was legalized in the country.

ASAP and Ipas Nepal collaborated to organize a tour that brought together midlevel providers from Nepal, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh for an exchange study and peer learning experience.

- Visit to a clinic where midlevel providers perform surgical and medical abortion
- Hands-on training for Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) using dummies
- Visit to a birthing center and a district hospital in Nepal

Highlights:

- Sessions included Gender, Human Rights and Reproductive Rights
- Technical updates on surgical and medical abortion.
- Session on using safe abortion hotlines.

Impact:

The tour provided an opportunity for Midlevel Providers to explore a successful model for task shifting and to begin planning campaigns to advocate for the same in their countries.





“This was a great learning experience for me! We got a chance to meet other youth champions and learn about SRHR in their countries, and we learned a lot from the resource people.”

- Shreejana



Capacity Building:

Youth Advocacy Institute

Mumbai, 31st October to 3rd November 2012

ASAP conducted its **FIRST** Youth Advocacy Institute!!

Highlights:

- Sessions included social construct of gender, human rights, the basics of reproductive health and reproductive rights.
- Discussions on What It means to be Prochoice
- Learning through new media like films, web videos, magic tricks.
- Discussions on innovative communication methods, interpersonal communication and intensive sessions on social media.
- Introduction to abortion hotlines and innovative ways of advocating for safe abortion.



In the Post-Workshop Evaluation **100% of the students** answered questions on safe and unsafe abortion correctly!!

Impact:

- We have a closed **Facebook Group** for young Prochoice activists to discuss abortion in Asia.
- We are providing **social media mentoring** for all those who actively use social media in their advocacy, and are teaching the others to begin trying new media.
- We are **supporting** the Youth Champions in their advocacy programmes ranging from setting up new hotlines and research to capacity building workshops.

For Information on Safe Abortion Call:

Pakistan:

0307-4940707(Urdu, Punjabi)

0315-9473399(Urdu, Sindhi)

0315-9473399(Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi)

Indonesia:

062-274-6686120(Bahasa)

Safe
Abortion
Hotlines



+ Summary Of Hotline Performance Report 2012

We have supported country partners in setting up and running hotlines on Misoprostol use. In Pakistan (since 2010 with Aware Girls and Peace Foundation) and Indonesia (since 2011 with Samsara). This year another partner in Indonesia has set up a hotline (Women's Health Foundation).

These Hotlines provide accurate information to women on **Misoprostol use for Post Partum Hemorrhage and for Safe Abortion**.

The local partners have carried out various dissemination activities including community meetings, values clarification for service providers, distributing IEC material to spread awareness on medical abortion and promote the hotlines.

Each hotline receives on an average
50 calls/month

Finances:

ASAP has implemented its work on a series of projects/ activities through the support of various donors and collaborations in the Year 2012.

These include:

- The David and Lucille Packard Foundation
- Mama Cash
- Safe Abortion Action Funds (routed through Partners)
- DFID-MSI PMDUP Project
- Individual Donors.

Contact ASAP:

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or coordinator@asap-asia.org

